

Message Text

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TREASURY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 568 - MAY 19, 1978

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING
PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. IN AN ATTEMPT TO SILENCE HIS OPPONENTS, SADAT HAS CALLED FOR A REFERENDUM NEXT SUNDAY THAT COULD RESTRICT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

2. EGYPTIAN VOTERS WILL BE ASKED WHETHER ALL THOSE WHO "CALL FOR PRINCIPLES CONTRAVENING THE TEACHING OF RELIGIONS"--AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNISTS--SHOULD BE BARRED FROM KEY POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRESS, AND THE UNIONS. THE ELECTORATE WILL BE ASKED TO BAN THOSE LEFTISTS WHO OPPOSED SADAT AFTER THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT NASIR AND THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN POLITICS BEFORE THE 1952 REVOLUTION, A STIPULATION AIMED AT THE REEMERGENT WAFD PARTY.

3. SADAT HAS CASTIGATED THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, THE MEDIA, THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AND OTHER CRITICS. HE HAS CONDEMNED THE LEFT FOR RETAINING ITS CLANDESTINE STYLE AND BRANDED THE WAFD MEMBERSHIP AS REACTIONARY.

4. SADAT'S ATTEMPT TO SILENCE HIS CRITICS TESTIFIES TO
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THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. THE OPPOSITION HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SADAT'S MUCH VAUNTED DEMOCRATIZATION PROGRAM. HIS GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF A SHAKY ECONOMY AND A FALTERING PEACE INITIATIVE.

5. THE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED REFERENDUM IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A VENEER OF DEMOCRACY, FROM WHICH SADAT WILL ARGUE THAT HIS LIBERALIZATION PROCESS REMAINS INTACT. SADAT'S CRITICS WILL PROBABLY ESCALATE THEIR ATTACKS TO ENSURE THAT HE CANNOT BOTH MUZZLE THEM AND MAINTAIN DEMOCRATIC PRETENSES. (SECRET)

6. ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS-WEST BANK: THE HEAD OF THE IDF'S PLANNING BRANCH, GENERAL TAMIR, HAS PRESENTED THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SETTLEMENT AFFAIRS WITH A NEW PROPOSAL CALLING FOR SIX URBAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK AND THE SETTLING OF UP TO 56,000 ISRAELI FAMILIES IN THE AREA, ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM RADIO. THE BROADCAST YESTERDAY ASSERTED THAT THE NEW SCHEME REPRESENTED IN EFFECT THE IDEAS OF WEIZMAN. THE SIX URBAN SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE: QARNEI SHOMRON, 2,000 FAMILIES; HARIS, 14,000; NEBI SALEH, 2,000; MAALE ADUMIN, 7,000; GIVON, 5,000; AND

EFRAT, 8,000. THIS LAST SITE, THE ONLY ONE APPARENTLY NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING JUST SOUTH OF BETHLEHEM. (OUR JERUSALEM CONSULATE GENERAL REPORTED THE RECENT START OF GROUND-LEVELING AT AN APPARENT SETTLEMENT SITE, WHICH MAY BE A FOOTHOLD FOR EFRAT, NEAR SOLOMON'S POOLS TO THE SOUTH OF BETHLEHEM.) THIS "TAMIR-WEIZMAN PLAN" ALSO MENTIONS 10 MORE SETTLEMENTS AND SEVERAL "NAHAL" AND MILITARY FOOTHOLDS, AND HAS AS AN OVERALL PURPOSE THE STRENGTHENING OF THE REGION OF JERUSALEM AND THE CENTRAL AREA OF SAMARIA, THE BROADCAST SAID. THE RADIO COMMENTED THAT THE PLAN APPEARS TO BE WEIZMAN'S RESPONSE TO SHARON'S EARLIER GRANDIOSE SCHEMES. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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7. JERUSALEM RADIO QUOTED DAYAN AS SAYING IN STOCKHOLM THAT THE US "AND A NUMBER OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS" ARE PREPARED TO HAVE THE IDF REMAIN IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AFTER A PEACE AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. THE BROADCAST DID NOT SAY WHETHER DAYAN HAD MENTIONED A TIME FRAME FOR THE IDF'S PRESENCE. (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. THE ISRAELI POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS THAT THREE WEST BANK ARABS WERE FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN A CAR IN ISRAEL MAY 16, OUR JERUSALEM CONSULATE GENERAL REPORTED. (UNCLASSIFIED)

9. ISRAEL-WARPLANE DEAL: COMMENTING ON THE STATE OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS, BEGIN REITERATED TO ISRAELI TV MAY 18 THAT THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE WARPLANE DEAL WAS A "GRAVE PHENOMENON" AND A "SERIOUS MISFORTUNE", BUT ASSERTED THAT ISRAEL WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REDUCE THE IMPACT TO A MINIMUM AND "OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY" WITH THE US. HE ADDED THAT CONTACTS WITH EGYPT REGARDING THE PEACE PROCESS WERE CONTINUING AND THAT ISRAEL WOULD "NOT CEASE" ITS EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE. THE ISRAELI PRESS HAS FRONT-PAGED THE US' "CAMPAIGN OF RECONCILIATION" TOWARD ISRAEL, SPECULATING THAT WASHINGTON WILL OFFER SEVERAL POSSIBLE FORMS OF "COMPENSATION" FOR THE SENATE'S DECISION SUCH AS MORE JETS OR A GO-AHEAD FOR KFIR SALES TO TAIWAN. (UNCLASSIFIED)

10. ISRAELI JOURNALISTS-EGYPT: A DELEGATION OF EDITORIAL STAFF MEMBERS AND WRITERS FOR ISRAEL'S LEFT-WING "NEW OUTLOOK" MAGAZINE WILL VISIT CAIRO NEXT WEEK. REUTER REPORTED THE VISIT, FOR WHICH PERMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, IS IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM EGYPTIAN INTELLECTUALS. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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11. ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS: EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTED THAT AN OFFICIAL AT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT HAS OFFERED A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE INABILITY OF MODERATE ARAB DELEGATIONS TO SOFTEN THE HARSH MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION AT THE RECENT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, THE DAKAR HOTEL WHERE SAUDI AND MANY OF THE PERSIAN GULF STATES' DELEGATIONS RESIDED REPORTEDLY SERVED LUNCH ON A TERRACE OVERLOOKING A BEACH AREA POPULATED BY NUDE SUN-BATHERS AND SWIMMERS. SUCH SIGHTS AT AN ISLAMIC EVENT SO SAPPED THE VITALITY OF THE DELEGATES THAT THEY BECAME PUSHOVERS FOR THE ALGERIANS, LIBYANS, AND PLO WHO WERE APPARENTLY EITHER MADE OF STERNER STUFF OR LODGED IN A DIFFERENT HOTEL. (CONFIDENTIAL)

12. LEBANON: TENSIONS ARE RUNNING VERY HIGH IN THE PORT CITY OF SIDON. EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS MURDERED A CHRISTIAN IN SIDON ON MAY 17. A SUNNI MUSLIM WAS MURDERED ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE. THE TWO INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED INTER-CONFESSIONAL TENSION IN THE CITY. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. THE SWEDISH CONTINGENT OF UNIFIL HAS PULLED OUT OF LEBANON AND RETURNED TO ITS POSITIONS IN THE SINAI. (CONFIDENTIAL) VANCE

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